

- ▶ **Electricity can be dangerous**
– on average, every week someone in the UK dies in an electrical accident in their home¹.
- ▶ **Almost half of all domestic fires are caused by electricity and, if you live in a privately rented house or flat, statistics show² you are at a higher risk of electric shock.**

▶ **More information**

For more information about electrical safety in rented properties visit: www.esc.org.uk

For information about gas safety in rented properties visit:
www.GasSafeRegister.co.uk

For information about fire safety in rented properties visit: www.firekills.direct.gov.uk



**Protect yourself in
your rented home**



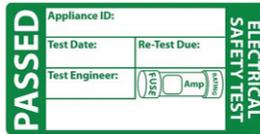
¹ Core Data Set, Electrical Safety Council 2010

² Ipsos Mori: Electrical Injury Survey 2010.
Figures refer to adults only (18+)

Protect yourself and those you live with by following these simple steps:

CHECK

- that sockets, switches and light fittings are in good condition with no signs of damage such as cracking or burn marks.
- that leads (flexible cables) on appliances aren't damaged or frayed.
- that any electrical appliances provided by the landlord have up to date PAT (Portable Appliance Test) stickers on them. Although this is not a legal requirement, it is recommended by the Electrical Safety Council. A typical PAT sticker looks like this and will have been filled in by the electrician who inspected and tested the appliance. (PAT testing is not generally required if the appliance is under a year old.)
- that the consumer unit (fusebox) has RCD protection. An RCD is a life-saving device that protects against electric shock and reduces the risk of electrical fires. It looks like this:



WARNING SIGNS

If you see any of these in a rented property - **be warned** – they show that an electrical installation is old and it may not have had the proper safety checks:

- 👁 Cables are coated in black rubber, lead or fabric.
- 👁 The consumer unit (fusebox) has a wooden back, is made of cast iron, or there are a number of them in the same area.
- 👁 Old, round pin sockets and round light switches, cables covered in fabric hanging from ceiling roses, brown and black switches and sockets mounted in skirting boards.
- 👁 Light switches mounted on the wall in the bathroom.

ASK THE LANDLORD FOR...

- An electrical report confirming that the electrical installation has been assessed and is safe to use (called a Periodic Inspection Report or PIR). The Electrical Safety Council recommends that a PIR should be carried out by a registered electrician at least every five years or on change of tenancy.
- Certification confirming that any recent electrical work meets the UK national standard BS 7671.

REMEMBER

Not all electrical accidents are caused by faults – some are due to people's behaviour. To reduce the risk of electrical accidents and fires once you are in your rented property stick to a few simple rules:

- DON'T overload sockets
- DON'T attempt to use electrical appliances from overseas in the UK. Products manufactured for use in other countries may operate at a different voltage and frequency.
- DON'T attempt any repairs to the electrical wiring or appliances yourself
- DON'T take mains powered electrical products into the bathroom
- DON'T touch electrical appliances or switches with wet hands
- DON'T plug adaptors into adaptors
- DO tell your landlord immediately if you think there's a problem with the electrics

1 Plug-in RCD providing protection for a single appliance.

2 A consumer unit (fusebox) incorporating an RCD. This is the safest form of RCD protection and should be tested quarterly.

